

CWNA

newsletter

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R.L.Davis, Editor

Denver, Colorado

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SPRING

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JR

THE CWNA SPRING SHOW is now scheduled for May 18-20 at the Denver Hilton. This location was previously used as a CWNA show. The bourse will be in the same location and the exhibits in the adjoining room. An additional room will be available for forums and other such events. There will not be any auction and no banquet is to be held. It is planned for 40 dealer and 50-60 exhibit spaces. Rather than use a club sponsor this year, the show will be manned by CWNA personnel with volunteer help. We hope the various CWNA members who are attending the show will plan on some contribution of time to assist. The chairman who are now working are:

Robert L. Davis-General
Ed Young -Exhibit
W.E. Davis -Bourse

Any of these people can be reached at:

Box 29453
Thornton, Colorado
80229

Please let us know if any of your members will help, have some ideas for us, etc. We will not turn down help, either physical or fiscal.

Remember any gains are returned to the Association. I hope this all CWNA effort is successful.

AT THE START of a new year is normally a point for evaluation of efforts when all successes and/or defeats are totaled, so why not with the local club?

Have you ever held a session with the old/new officers to seriously consider what purpose the club has? Normally, it is "business as usual", as no-one complained.

I am of the opinion the local club should be the primary agent in any attempt to improve the hobby, but more social aspects seem to outweigh things of more serious nature. These "things" are such as, club auction practices, election process, etc, to the counterfeit, processed coins.

If a club receives a comment from an individual this should be seriously considered and, where appropriate, further action taken as a club. Normally, both sides should be presented with no "trial in absentia" allowed. If the various sides are not properly represented the club officials are obligated to some follow-up.

Of course, this is work, but if local/state officers don't start "getting their hands dirty" the hobby that should be for enjoyment will disappear and what remains will be controlled by a few for their personal gain.

R L Davis

DOES YOUR CLUB have an effective junior program? We do not mean just the special auction or somesuch, but an actual thought out plan for developing junior members in your club.

At the last board meeting in Denver, those present discussed at fair length what's been historically "normal" approaches used by clubs and came to the conclusion; that in general, more work was desirable; therefore as an overall aim this year CWNA is going to place some special focus on juniors.

We will be available to help clubs via special talks, discussions, both at your meetings and outside groups, in establishing effective youth programs. Since the national or state organizations can't be as effective as your local club, we ask your assistance. If your club does have a good working program, let CWNA know, and we will aid by providing publicity for your efforts. The major concerns are in areas of guidance in purchases, auction practices, reference books and guides, but some effort should be made to integrate juniors into club functions. Perhaps a little of the over exuberance will work wonders in your club.

ONE OF THE MOST interesting points to any collector of Mexican material would be a visit to the old mint in Mexico City, Mexico. A distinguished landmark in numismatic history.

The mint was established in 1842. In this period most of the mints in Mexico were leased to private firms, U.S. or British. This included the Mexico City Mint, which was leased from 1847 - 1892. As a result of the lax terms and contracts of the government, they lost considerable revenue and the leasing companies made large profits.

As you enter the main gate or large, heavy and very old doors, you look down a narrow corridor to see a courtyard in the center of the building. There are two or 3 armed guards, but in a more casual, relaxed atmosphere than you find at the Denver mint.

The first stop in the foundry room, leads into the old world, as many of the methods are the same as one hundred years ago. The men are busy pouring molten metal into ingots, 3 by 12 inches to be rolled into sheets.

Next are the roller machines in a long row. The men feed the metal into them one at a time by hand, and this process is repeated until the proper thickness is attained. The strips of metal are now about 4 inches wide and six feet long.

The strips are then sent to the planchet punch machines, which are hand-operated, and punched one at a time. After the planchets are annealed in an oven they are sent to the striking room, where the coins are born via presses similar to a modern mint.

One of the most educational things about the tour in the mint, is the fact that you are right on the floor among the machines. There are silver bars, bins of blank planchets and bins of struck coins all around, all of which we could handle freely.

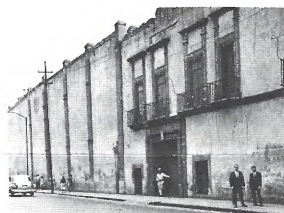
The mint was in the process of striking 5 centavo, five and 25 peso coins in their respective metals. The five centavo, when in large quantities, appears to be gold. The bins of silver coin looked like Capt. Kidd's treasure chest. The three larger denomination coins are hand "rung" for proper sound. Each coin is thrown onto a block of steel and if a correct ring is not heard the coin is rejected, since the people treat anything that does not ring as counterfeit. This test method may account for the tiny rim bruises on uncirculated coins.

Few people who visit are privileged to go into the gold room, therefore this in itself was a treat. This small room is entered through a large vault door. Inside is a bench, large steel chest, and a large old safe. The supervisor opened the chest to reveal a magnificent sight—gold bars, gold sheets and a small chest containing fifty peso blank planchets, which I had to run my fingers through. The safe contained bags of struck gold coins in the normal denominations. As with everyone, the superintendent had his favorite coin so proceeded to open the bags of 20 and 50 pesos and dump them on the table. This was a thrill for all present.

If you are interested in history at all, this building is full to overflowing. The walls seem to want so much to tell their stories. When the new mint reaches its designed capacity, in about 2 years, this old mint will be torn down. If you would like to spend a romantic afternoon, in connection with the history of coins, you should plan your trip soon.

Mr. E. Young
CWNA BOARD

Incidentally Mr. Young will be glad to provide a program if contacted a reasonable time before your meeting.



Mexico City Mint as it looks today.

WHY NOT share your numismatic experiences with others? Send copy to me for the next newsletter. Deadline is Feb. 15 for the March issue.

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JOIN

CWNA

NOW



DOUBLE DIE WHAT HEXAGON THOUGHTS

A nineteen fifty-five double die and now a nineteen seventy-two double die. Seventeen years later, more sophisticated machinery and a repeat of a major error. This coin came along just when the coin market needed a boost to interest "date collectors" to continue on. Collector reaction was varied, but whether you like it or not, the coin is here to stay! This coin appeals to "investor", "date collector", and "error collector" as well. Although not as pronounced as the '55 double die, it is still easily seen with the naked eye. There have been reports that as many as 100,000 specimens exist. Well don't believe it! Since I first reported the coin in June of '72, I have kept a close eye on the market and I would now classify the coin as scarce. There are no more being found. The guess-timate of total mintage would be 20 to 40,000. I also believe the coin will reach the \$200 level or half as much as the 55 double-die, which is currently listed at \$400 in uncirculated. I had an oldtime dealer tell me it'll be good if it is listed in the "Red Book". Well let me tell you that Whitman Publishing Company plans to put it in the '73 "Blue" and '74 "Red" book. It will be interesting to see what price is quoted.

Mr. M. Moyer
Nov. 1972

this



now



DUE TO SOMETHING OR OTHER we have erred. The CWNA contest rules for a design of a new medal described the present shape as hexagon, not as the octagon, so to be sure that all possible contestants are correctly informed the rules are restated below.

1. Competition is open to all except judging committee and immediate families.
2. The design for one side (obverse) of a medal shall
 - a) include any material of local or historic interest pertaining to the Colorado-Wyoming area.
 - b) include specific reference to centennial year of Colorado's statehood
 - c) be suitable for reproduction on a medal approximately one and one-half inches in diameter
 - d) be suitable for use with the present/slightly modified CWNA (octagon) medal as reverse.
3. The contestant shall submit one design (8 1/2 X 11, black on white)

4. All entries must be in the hands of the judging committee by Sept. 1, 1973 and become property of CWNA.

5. Entries will be judged on suitability for medal use, application of centennial theme and artistic design/ balance and decision of the judges will be final.

6. The entry declared winner will receive \$250 but should no entry be found suitable, no award will be given.

MAIL TO:

Mr. G. Klein
Box 26161
Denver, Co.
80226

I RECEIVED A FLYER through a customer list for a national chain store. Offered a collection of 20th century coin for \$39.95. No condition, or such, only "each coin identified by design and dates of issuance". Shouldn't a club and/or state, national group do something on such sucker deals?

DO WE GET OUR MONEY'S WORTH in the present mail. Now it takes 3 to 4 days to cross a town like Denver, and a week or more to arrive from the East Coast. For a hobby that relies, so much on mail, it seems all is quite.

WHY THE WIDE RANGE of money in club treasuries? The range is from zero to well over a five hundred dollar level. I wonder if those without may learn something by visit to another club, also why not have some project to contribute to the hobby. Maybe the club could provide cases at half-price to beginning exhibitors, if they would show their exhibit at a club meeting?

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back

me

up

for

\$250

Return in 5 days to:
L. Hellene Bohler, Sec'y-Treas.
Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 856
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

FIRST CLASS MAIL



CWNA

Charles W Lavine
1893 S Filbert Ct
Denver, Co

CALENDAR

FT. COLLINS CLUB
Loveland, Co.
March 31-April 1

CENTRAL STATES
Peoria, Ill.
May 4-6

CWNA
Denver, Co.
May 18-20

ANA SEMINAR
Colorado Springs
July 8-14

CWNA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1972-73



LEFT TO RIGHT
Back row-
L. Bennett-Brd
G. Lewis-Pres
E. Young-Brd
L. Knee-1st VP
Dr. Schoon-
dermark-Brd

Front row-
W. McAuley-Brd
R. Davis-Brd
L.H. Bohler-Sec
L. Drake-2ndVP

TO CONTACT CWNA

Mail to

COLORADO-WYOMING
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

c/o L. Hellene Bohler
P.O. Box 856
Ft. Collins, Co.
80521

Any mail so addressed
will be forwarded to
individual concerned

Items available from
CWNA secretary:

1. Club meeting list
2. Copies of by-laws
3. File of programs-
Items are added from
time to time, so
write for latest info
4. Lists of present club
officers
5. Membership applications

Much of this info is based
on what the clubs provide
so let's keep CWNA up-to-
date. Many clubs find the
listings valuable for con-
tact, joint meetings, etc.

Keep us informed.

CLUB IDEAS ???

Have the winner of the door-
prize give impromptu speech
on his specialty.

Put names of those present
and draw for talk next meet-
ing.

Have each person give his
forecast for 1973, in the
area of coins.

Add a "question of the month"
to bulletin and have discus-
sion at meeting.

Did you ever notice more bus-
iness is discussed at the
"coffee break", than during
business meeting. Maybe the
meeting should be one long
break?